



## MILITARY PRISON DESTROYED

Fire Burns Ft. Leavenworth Penitentiary to the Ground Early This Morning

## PRISONERS SAFELY REMOVED

Several Companies of Troops Quickly Surround the Burning Buildings and With Drawn Rifles Met the Convicts as They Came Out.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., April 1.—The military prison at Port Leavenworth was partially destroyed by fire early this (Thursday) morning. The prisoners were removed from the cell houses under a heavy guard of United States troops and confined in stockades. None of the prisoners escaped. It is believed. The fire gained great headway on account of the low pressure of water. Great excitement prevailed among the prisoners who feared they would be burned to death. Soon several companies of soldiers were under arms, a strong cordon of troops were thrown around the prison and the delivery of prisoners was begun.

When the bolts of the cell house doors were shot back the flames had reached the main building. Perfect order doubtless prevented fatalities. The soldiers, with leveled rifles met the convicts as they came out. Guards were under instructions to shoot at any sign of trouble. The display of weapons effectually awed the prisoners. Loss, \$200,000.

There were 800 prisoners and at 2 o'clock the cell houses cooled sufficiently to allow half of the prisoners to return.

## HER JEWELS RETURNED

Chaffeur Finds \$20,000 Worth and Returns Them.

NEW YORK, March 31.—A jewel case containing a pearl necklace and other gems worth \$20,000, the property of Mrs. Russell Hopkins of Atlanta, Ga., was found by the chaffeur of a taxicab last night and returned to its owner before she had been aware of her loss.

The chaffeur returned his find through the manager of the hotel St. Regis, where Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins occupy apartments and it was only after an investigation of the contents of the cab had been made that its ownership was established. The finder was handsomely rewarded.

## PRISON PRODUCTS

WASHINGTON, March 31.—To avoid competition between convict

labor and free labor, and to give better protection to industries, in which free labor is engaged, Representative Kahn of California has introduced a bill making it a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of from \$500 to \$5000 or imprisonment of one year, or both for any person to knowingly transport out of any state or territory in which it is manufactured any article which is the product of prison labor.

## LIE AND MYSTERY

Another Peculiar Case Of Sudden Disappearance Recorded.

NEW ORLEANS, March 31.—Having mysteriously disappeared Mrs. E. V. Baker, wife of a grain broker of reputed wealth, who recently removed with his family to New Orleans from San Francisco, was last night again with her family in this city.

It is said that Mrs. Baker was found in New York. It was declared that she had been drugged by a woman whom she met here on the day of her disappearance and that it was some days after her arrival in New York before she regained full possession of her faculties and notified her husband of her whereabouts.

## CRAZY SNAKE STILL HIDING FROM TROOPS

HIS SURRENDER IS EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS.

PIERCE, Okla., March 31.—Reports that Chitti Harjos (Crazy Snake), is hiding in the Tiger Mountains, about six miles from here, is confirmed. His surrender is expected within 24 hours. The messenger that came in from the chief said that Crazy is slightly wounded but would surrender if promised fair treatment, but the messenger did not give location of the camp and the chief has not been found. The chief will be guaranteed a fair trial.

## MODELS FOR STATES

WASHINGTON, March 31.—Senator Heyburn of Idaho has introduced a bill requiring the Secretary of the Navy to have constructed a complete model of each vessel of war of the United States navy which shall have or shall hereafter be given the name borne by a State of the United States to be deposited in a conspicuous place convenient to public view in the capitol building of the state.

## YESTERDAY'S BALL GAMES.

At Los Angeles—Portland 7, Los Angeles 5.

At Sacramento—Sacramento 1, Vernon 3.

At San Francisco—Oakland 1, San Francisco 0.

## CONVICT SYSTEM NO MORE

Georgia Finally Does Away With Its Abominable Modern Slavery

## STATE TO WORK PRISONERS

For Years It Has Been the Practice to Lease All Convicts Out to Private Contractors, Who Abused Them Without Mercy.

ATLANTA, Ga., March 31.—The convict lease system, which has produced so much graft and cruelty during its existence, ends in the State of Georgia today. The law which will produce this great reform, and which was passed by the General Assembly in extraordinary session last September, will go into force tomorrow. Secretary Goodloe Vancy, of the prison commission, has for several weeks past been engaged almost constantly in preparing every detail for the coming into force of the new convict law that takes all the convicts out of the hands of lessees forever and turns them over to the state itself—their owner.

Under the new law all felony convicts shall be turned over to the Prison Commission after today, including those now in the hands of lessees and those hereafter convicted. All misdemeanor convicts not worked by the counties upon their roads shall also be turned over to the Commission. Counties desiring to use convicts in building roads, bridges, and other public works shall apply to the Prison Commission for their present quota, in writing, not later than February 15 of each year. After the pro rata share of each county has been distributed to those desiring them, all counties wanting more shall have them on another proportionate scale. After the second distribution, municipalities desiring them shall have them at \$100 per convict per annum. State farms are to be leased for five years or purchased, if possible, where convicts may be worked. State institutions needing labor may have fifty convicts each. If all these means of disposing of convicts do not absorb the total number in the Commission's hands, then the Commission and the governor are given authority to dispose of the remainder as they think best, on work wherein the contractor is not interested in the amount of work the convict can do per day, and, for a period not to exceed twelve months.

Thus ends a system, wrong in principle and fruitfully abused in practice, and thus is dealt to private contractors accustomed to reap the fruits of this obnoxious system, a heavy blow. Under the old law there was no penitentiary in Georgia; there were no workhouses. No prisoners were kept in jails, but at every term of court persons who had been convicted of offences for which imprisonment is the penalty in other States, were sold as slaves to whoever desired that kind of labor, and the money went into the public treasury. These convicts were "leased" to anyone who was willing to pay. And other persons who were convicted of offences punishable by fine were "leased" to any person willing to pay the fine and permit the prisoner to work out the amount at a fixed rate of wages.

General Thomas H. Ruger of the United States Army, then military governor of Georgia, without any authority from the people of this state, inaugurated the convict lease system in 1868, by hiring out the first responsible bidder two hundred of the five hundred convicts then in the penitentiary. The others were hired out soon afterward either by him or by Governor Bullock. This was done at that time because of the

poverty of the State, which has just emerged from devastating war. Democratic Legislatures, for the same reasons, continued the system under restraints which reduced its bad features to a minimum, postponing to a later and more prosperous period the permanent solution of the penitentiary problem.

The Legislature of 1871 even passed an act ratifying the Bullock lease and authorizing the continuance of the lease for two years. In 1874 a new lease for twenty years was authorized, and ex-Governor Joseph E. Brown was active in securing the passage of the act, organized a lease company which had the pick of the convicts, and is supposed to have made a large part of his fortune in the profits of the lease. In 1896 a political issue was made of the convict lease system, and Seaborn Wright, independent candidate for Governor, endorsed by the Populist party forced from the Democratic party the pledge to abolish the system if he should remain in power. The legislature, however, violated this party pledge, contending that the abolition should be gradual. A few reforms were the only good result of that promise. Leases were made for five years under certain restrictions and were renewed in 1903 for another term of five years.

But the cry for reform would not be silenced and the Penitentiary Committee of the Legislature of 1907-8 made a partial investigation of some of the convict camps which disclosed a shocking condition. It was also found that State warden Jake Moore had collected commissions from several lessees. It was shown that the contractors realized enormous profits from the system and often abused the convicts working for them. On this showing the extra session of the Legislature abolished the system altogether.

## MEXICAN FARMERS ARE IN OPEN REBELLION

OBJECT TO THE GOVERNMENT PLACING A TAX ON WORK HORSES AND OXEN.

EL PASO, Texas, March 31.—The Herald prints a telegram from Chihuahua declaring that the Temosach Indians and numerous Mexican farmers in the vicinity of San Andres, Chihuahua are in open rebellion against the state government because of a tax of three cents daily on all work oxen and horses. The tax aroused the ire of the native ranchers who own farms in the valleys. Several skirmishes were taken between the people and the tax collectors. Regular troops and rurales have been sent to the scene. The country is thickly populated and the people are known as sharpshooters who go armed and are skilled in warfare.

## KNIGHTED BY POPE.

NEW YORK, March 31.—Miss Eleanor Colgan, a teacher in the training school for teachers, has been singled out by Pope Pius X for enrollment as a member of the Order of Knighthood of the church, and the papacy as a reward for her services in bettering the conditions of the Italians of South Brooklyn.

The distinction carries with it a golden cross, the presentation of which was made to her yesterday.

Miss Colgan has been for several years devoted to charitable and religious work in connection with the Italian Church of Our Lady of Peace in Brooklyn.

## REDUCE WAGES.

One of the Largest Coke Concerns Announce 10 Per Cent Reduction.

PITTSBURGH, March 31.—Notice of a 10 per cent reduction of wages of the employees of W. P. Snyder & Co., one of the largest manufacturers and coke concerns of the Pittsburgh district is announced today. The reduction will be general.

## VOTE ON TARIFF BILL SOON

Indications are That Date Will be Set on Next Monday April 5

## APRIL 10TH MAY BE TIME

Advocates of Free Lumber Have Made so Much Noise That it is Probable That the Vote on Lumber Schedule Will be Separate.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 31.—Indications today are strong that a rule will be brought into the House next Monday fixing April 10 as the day for voting on the Payne tariff bill.

It is understood that the rule will provide for committee amendments and the opening of the lumber, tea and coffee schedule—to amendment for placing these articles on the free list. It may be possible that hides will be included for consideration, but the sentiment seems to be growing that the Senate will see that the duty is resorted on hides. The rule will probably provide for the reading of the measure under the five-minute rule during next week. This would not give time for the reading of the whole bill under the rule.

Advocates of free lumber have made such a clamor in the House that it is said by one of the House leaders that the ways and means committee has consented to have a separate vote on the lumber schedule. This means that the free-lumber amendment will be proposed, and it is feared by Pacific Coast members, it may be carried. It will now be the effort of Western and Southern men to prevent a separate vote on lumber. This can only be shut off by the ways and means committee.

The Senate finance committee will give a hearing tomorrow to the lumber men from Michigan and the South who will protest against the lumber schedule of the Payne bill. It is learned, on good authority, that Representatives having lumber mills in their districts, are afraid that if they ask for a vote in the House on their amendment restoring the lumber duty to \$2, that the amendment will be defeated, and that the amendment placing lumber on the free list will be adopted.

These members are now willing to accept a cut to \$1 if the ways and means committee will bring in an amendment repealing the maximum and minimum feature as it applies to lumber. This proposition is now being considered by the ways and means committee.

When the House today resumed consideration of the tariff bill, Morgan of Missouri, urged protection for the zinc industry. Quoting from a speech by President Taft that the primary purpose of a tariff was to provide more revenue for the government, Brantley of Georgia declared this to be a true Democratic doctrine. The primary purpose of the Payne bill, he contended, was not revenue, but the maintenance of the true Republican theory of protection. Brantley laid the present deficit at the door of what he charged was Republican extravagance.

Brantley said the Dingley tariff in sawed lumber of \$2 a thousand was not prohibitory, but a revenue rate, and said if given the opportunity he would vote to have it restored. He attacked the cotton schedule on the ground that it was solely in the interest of the New England manufacturer. The situation with which the leaders of the House find themselves confronted in dealing with the Payne tariff bill continues to give the greatest concern at the White House. It is said today that Taft has been directly appealed to by Cannon and Payne and Dalzell, who are worried by tactics of the insurgents. The western

manufacturers of wheat products propose that in order to retain the export trade that provision be incorporated in the bill that any article manufactured of grain raised in the United States in order to obtain the drawback when exported in lieu of imported grain, must be manufactured in the same mill or factory as the article manufactured from imported grain. Further provision would make bran, shorts and other products of imported wheat manufactured in bonded warehouses and withdrawn from domestic consumption, subject to a duty of 25 per centum ad valorem based upon the market price at the place of manufacture.

## STANDARD OIL CAPITAL

NEW YORK, March 31.—It is reported in financial circles here that all preliminary steps have been taken by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, for the increase of its capitalization from \$100,000,000 to \$500,000,000.

The change is said to be prompted by the desire of those in control of the affairs of the corporation to bring the nominal capital close to the value which the shares of the company command in the open market where the stock is now selling at about 650.

## 'FRISCO CELEBRATED CLOSE OF CAMPAIGN

FIGHT WAGED AGAINST BU-BONIC PLAGUE NOW AT AN SUCCESSFUL END.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 31.—San Francisco celebrated officially the close of its campaign against the bubonic plague tonight by giving a public dinner to Dr. Rupert Blue, of the United States Marine Hospital service, and his corps of executive officers at the Fairmont Hotel. Governor Gillett, Mayor Taylor and other notables were present. Impromptu speeches by Dr. Blue, Homer S. King, chairman of the citizens' health committee, whose president, Charles S. Wheeler, acted as toastmaster; Governor Gillett, Mayor Taylor, Dr. Regensberger, the president of the state board of health, Dr. T. W. Huntington, of San Francisco board of health, presented Dr. Blue with a handsome gold watch appropriately inscribed.

## FINE BULLDOG DEAD.

CHICAGO, March 31.—Gloom has been cast over the bench show of the Chicago Kennel Club by the announcement that the noted French bulldog, Mareschal Ney II, owned by Lincoln Bartlett, of Chicago, and valued by its owner at \$10,000, is dead. Mr. Bartlett says that the animal had been playing with children who had thrown corks for it to scamper after. The dog swallowed several of the corks and died of acute peritonitis in spite of the efforts of three doctors to save its life.

## WOMAN KIDNAPPER IS NOW ARRAIGNED

She Entered a Plea of Not Guilty of Stealing Little Willie Whitla

MERCER, Pa., March 31.—Mrs. Helen Boyle, wife of James H. Boyle, kidnaper of Willie Whitla, was arraigned before Justice of the Peace Thomas McClain at this place today, charged with kidnaping. She entered a plea of not guilty, and was held for the action of the grand jury in the sum of \$25,000 bail.

The woman was taken from jail and followed by a couple of deputies. They went to the office of the Justice about a block distant. Mrs. Boyle was asked if she would plead guilty or not guilty, and replied:

## HARRIMAN IS FOR REVISION

Wants Revised Tariff and a Better Carrying Law or Both

## SHOULD REDUCE EXPENSES

Wants Also to Have the Sherman Anti-Trust Law Revised as he Does Not Like to be Prosecuted—Has Not Much Faith in Administration

CHICAGO, March 31.—Edward H. Harriman was interviewed here tonight and said in part: "If the government had revised the tariff or given the country a good currency law, or both, we would not have had the Landis decision, and we would not have had this wasteful prosecution of corporations, nor all this hostile legislation against railroads."

He spoke of the necessity of the revision of the Sherman anti-trust act and referring to the financial methods of the government said he would effect a reduction in the expenses of the government "By applying the cost per ton per miles rule, so to speak, by which the railroads effect their economies. I mean that the railroad management know what it costs them to transport a ton of freight one mile and are governed accordingly and constantly striving to reduce that unit of cost. If this principle were to be applied to the financial problems of the government you would see marvelous changes in a few years."

He said he did not believe the present administration was inclined to make changes in this direction.

## COURTESY WELL REPAID.

Legacy For Girl Who Danced With Elderly Stranger.

COLUMBUS, O., March 31.—Miss Effie Elliott, daughter of C. S. Elliott, of Arcanum, while a student at the Normal School at Ada, three years ago, went to a dance. There she met an elderly man who was a guest at the home of a member of the faculty. Miss Elliott, noticing that the elderly stranger received scant attention, danced with him several times.

After the dance Miss Elliott did not see the man nor did she hear from him until yesterday when she received notice that he was dead and had left her \$35,000 in negotiable securities.

Dr. Elliott refuses to make public the name or last address of his daughter's benefactor. All that is known is that he had lived in the West and for some time in Kansas City.

## WON'T ACCEPT A RATE DECISION

Attorneys for O. R. & N. Will Contest Decision of Commerce Commission in "Spokane Rate Case"

PORTLAND, March 31.—The Harriman lines will, according to W. W. Cotton, general attorney for the O. R. & N. Co., contest in the courts the recent decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission in the case commonly known as the "Spokane Rate Case," on the ground that the Harriman lines were compelled to carry freight a much longer distance in order to deliver it at Spokane from Eastern points than are the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railroads.

Mr. Cotton makes point, using class "A" freight as an illustration, that the rate from Chicago to Spokane is,

by the Interstate Commerce Commission, fixed at \$3.00 and the rate from St. Paul to Spokane at \$2.50 per hundred weight. In the same classification, Mr. Cotton points out that the rate from St. Paul to coast points is \$2.50 and from Chicago to coast points \$3.00, notwithstanding the haul, by way of the Harriman lines, is many hundred miles less to the coast than to Spokane. The burden of the contention of the Harriman attorney being that the rate fixed discriminates in favor of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific, which are competing lines to the Harriman system.